

Nevada Noxious Weed  
Field Guide

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# The Flow

*Delivering News from the Carson River Watershed Community*

Summer 2013

A Special Edition on Invasive Species

## Aquatic Invasive Species Threatening Nevada's Waters

By Karen Vargas, Nevada Department of Wildlife

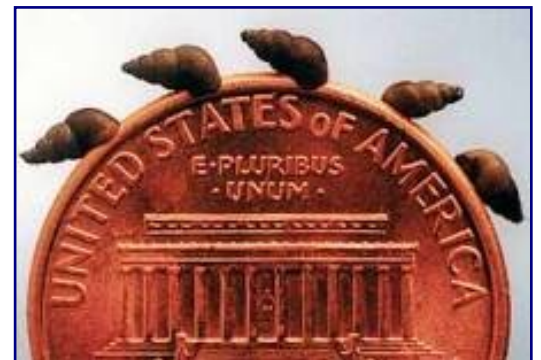
Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Nevada's waterways at an alarming rate. Species such as quagga and zebra mussels can negatively impact Nevada's native species and also cause significant harm to water infrastructures by clogging intake pipes at water facilities. AIS generally have no natural predators, reproduce rapidly and are capable of tolerating harsh environmental conditions. Some of the major pathways

expected in the next several months to determine the extent of the infestation. The tiny NZMS can choke out native organisms that fish depend on as their food source. In addition to the Truckee River, the snail can now be found at five



*Quagga mussels cover a rock in Lake Mead.*

of AIS introductions occur when contaminated watercraft, fishing gear and equipment are moved from an AIS infested water body to a non-infested water body. Some AIS are so small they can hitch a ride to a new water body without being seen. A case in point, New Zealand mud snails (NZMS) were recently found in the Truckee River in Sparks during a limited survey. An extended survey of the river is



*New Zealand Mud snails relative to the size of a penny.*

Nevada waterways including Maggie Creek, a portion of the Humboldt River near Carlin, Beaver Dam Wash near Caliente, Salmon Falls Creek near Jackpot and Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA).

NZMS are not the only new invaders to Nevada waters. LMNRA has been heavily infested with quagga mussels since 2007; however, in April 2011, quagga mussel

veligers (larvae) were detected at both Lahontan and Rye Patch Reservoirs. During subsequent monitoring Quagga mussel veligers or adults have not been

detected at either reservoir. As a precautionary measure, the Nevada

**Stop the spread of AIS!  
Always CLEAN, DRAIN and  
DRY your equipment, gear  
and/or watercraft  
before entering another  
body of water!**

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# Nevada's Weed Seed Free Certification Program

By Jamie Greer, Nevada Department of Agriculture

## What's the best tool to manage invasive species? *Prevent them from ever establishing.*

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) oversees the Nevada Weed Seed Free (WSF) Certification Program with the mission to limit and reduce the spread of invasive weeds. Nevada adopted the WSF Forage Certification Program in 2001 following standards created by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) (See article page 4). In 2010, Nevada began the WSF Gravel program which certifies gravel or earth materials under the same standards. The majority of other western states follow the same standards.



Agricultural land in the Carson Valley .

## Grazing Workshop Update:

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) in a partnership with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) hosted its first **Grazing and Weed Management Workshop** in Genoa at the Whit Hall Interpretive Center on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Twenty-five participants learned various methods livestock animals can be used to manage vegetation, specifically weeds. Participants also toured TNC's successful integrated weed management projects in ranch and wildlife habitat settings.

A special thanks to JB Lukemberry and Trimmer Outpost for lunch and refreshments, and TNC for hosting the event. For information on noxious weed educational opportunities contact NDA at 775-353-3640.



Participants touring TNC's demonstration area

Products that can be certified as "weed free" include grass hay, alfalfa, mixed hay, wheat, straw bales/mulch, topsoil, fill dirt, rocks, sand, and gravel. In order to become certified, forage producers must have an inspection in the field of origin before each cutting. Gravel pits must have an inspection twice during the growing season. Inspections consist of an NDA inspector walking the fields and pits searching for any of Nevada's listed noxious weeds and any of NAISMA'S prohibited invasive plant species. This includes inspecting ditches, roads, storage areas, fences, working areas, and a buffer zone.

On average, Nevada has approximately thirty forage producers and a few gravel pits that participate in NDA's program. Half of these producers are in the Carson River Watershed.

At present, the United States Forest Service and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency officially require WSF materials for use within their jurisdictions; however, any agency, contractor, or private citizen can require and use weed seed free materials. Overall, the use of Nevada certified WSF materials is highly recommended to protect our lands and contribute to the fight against invasive plants.

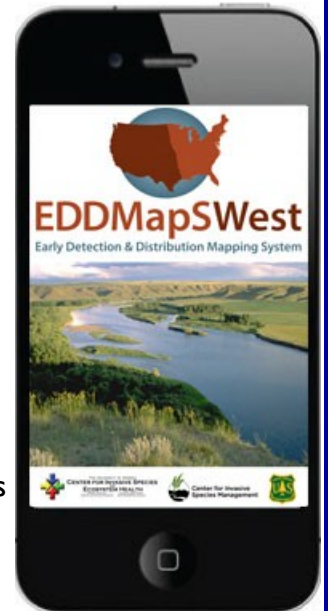
For more information or for a list of all Nevada certified producers visit the NDA website at [www.agri.nv.gov](http://www.agri.nv.gov) or contact Jamie Greer, Program Coordinator, at 775-353-3640.

## Weed App Available Through EDDMapS

By Margie Evans, Carson City Weed Coalition

You're out on a hike, float, or ride and a plant sets off alarms in your head. You probably have your smartphone with you to take pictures, post to Facebook and tweet about your experience. Did you know you can report that noxious weed at the same time? Using EDDMapS (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System) it takes less than a minute to report a weed once you're familiar with the app. Not sure of your plant identification abilities? No worries, Jamie Greer with Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), will ensure the plant is verified.

EDDMapS was developed by the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health in conjunction with USDA Forest Service, the Missouri River Watershed Coalition, NDA, and others. It is used widely across the nation by states, counties and federal agencies to monitor the distribution and movement of invasive insects, exotic animal pests and noxious weeds. EDDMapS collects invasive species sightings from individual reporters and retains the information in a mapping repository available online and downloadable to local land managers. NDA's Plant Industries Division uses EDDMapS to help monitor noxious weeds within our state.



Canada thistle

You can download the app (<http://www.eddmaps.org/mrwc/> or QR Code below) to your smartphone (iPhone or Android) to report suspected noxious weed species. The app includes a noxious weed list, photos and specific information about each plant. If you see something to report, take a picture of the offending plant and use your phone's location technology to pinpoint the site. The report uploads to the internet and an alert is sent out to the state noxious weed coordinator. So get out there and start reporting suspected invaders to fight the spread of invasive species!



## CWSD's New Watershed Assistant

By Debbie Neddenriep, Carson Water Subconservancy District



We are excited to introduce Courtney Walker as our new Watershed Assistant. Courtney has been working in the environmental field since 2005. With much of her experience in the Tahoe area, Courtney is well versed in watershed management and is thrilled to bring her knowledge to the Carson River Watershed. She has worked with non-profits, state, and regional governmental organizations, such as the California Tahoe Conservancy, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Courtney is also a volunteer Board member of the Sugar Pine Foundation, a local non-profit. She received her Bachelors of Science in Earth and Environmental Science from the University of California, Irvine in 2004. Courtney enjoys public speaking and hosts a radio show on KTAHOE in South Lake Tahoe. In her free time, she is skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and enjoying the outdoors with her family. If you are in our neighborhood, be sure to stop in to say hello to Courtney!



## Mayweed Chamomile: Proposed Seed Regulation Change

By Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District

Have you seen any Mayweed Chamomile, a Nevada listed noxious weed, lurking in our watershed or elsewhere in the State? The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) held a formal workshop on May 24, 2013, to solicit comments on proposed regulation changes to NAC 587.173, the code that regulates noxious weed seed in Nevada. NDA has been approached by a number of Pacific Northwest seed producers to remove Mayweed Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) seed from Nevada's prohibited noxious weed seed list. Removal of the prohibition would allow Mayweed Chamomile seed to be present in turf and revegetation seed mixes sold in Nevada. The seed producers claim that Nevada's prohibition on Mayweed Chamomile seed is causing hardship and monetary loss to their industry.



According to University of Nevada's Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet 04-08, *Managing Mayweed Chamomile*, the plant is native to the Mediterranean, but now is widespread throughout the Pacific northwest, California and Nevada, especially where irrigated agriculture has occurred.



### Plant specifics:

- **White daisy like flowers from May—December**
- **Vegetation has a foul odor**
- **Invades moist, disturbed, overgrazed areas, meadows, and riparian zones**
- **Prolific seed production ~960,000 per plant (Colorado Weed Management Association)**
- **Causes rashes, blistering, and can alter flavor of milk in dairy animals**

Herbarium records indicate that Mayweed Chamomile is found in several counties in the State; specifically in Carson City, Lyon, Storey and Douglas Counties in our watershed. Local weed groups and county staff have expressed concerns to NDA about the potential impacts on the Carson River watershed due to the proposed regulation changes regarding Mayweed Chamomile seed. Relaxing the prohibition on this seed in turf and revegetation seed mixes may detrimentally impact our agriculture producers, river restoration projects, and critical riparian areas. The potential ecological and economic impacts to the land and Nevada's has not been assessed. Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) supports our Carson River Coalition partners in opposing the relaxation of this regulation. NDA has not set a formal hearing date to take action on this issue, but NDA staff have suggested August/September 2013. CWSD Staff are seeking information from locals regarding the location and history of plants in the watershed. Please contact Brenda Hunt, 775.887.9005, [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org).

## NAISN Launches New Informational Website at [www.naisn.org](http://www.naisn.org)

The North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) launched [www.naisn.org](http://www.naisn.org), to provide a wide variety of invasive species management and research resources, links to multitudes of potential partner organizations, and access to streamlined data-sharing platforms for users throughout the USA, Canada and Mexico. NAISN is an American 501(c)3 non-profit, science-based organization formed in 2010 by university and government scientists and invasive species specialists across North America. Invasive species cross jurisdictional boundaries; therefore NAISN aims to unify and connect existing regional invasive species management and prevention efforts into a single network to improve communication, collaboration, and overall coordination in North America. Visit [www.naisn.org](http://www.naisn.org), for more information.

(Continued from page 1)

Division of State Parks, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) partnered to develop seasonal watercraft inspections and decontamination stations at these locations. Inspections and decontaminations are free of charge. A new state brochure is also available from CWSD. As recreationists, we can all do our part in preventing the transfer of AIS by following the CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY methods for our equipment, gear and watercraft before entering another body of water.



New Statewide AIS brochure

Funding for these programs is through federal grants and Nevada's AIS Prevention Decal. The Decal became mandatory for most motorized watercraft and non-motorized watercraft capable of retaining water in January 2013 (see inset for fees). The 2013 Nevada State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 128 providing decal exceptions for some watercraft on interstate waters. Specifically, the bill exempted California registered watercraft on Lake Tahoe or Topaz Lake from purchasing the Nevada decal and Arizona registered watercraft on Lake Mead, Mohave and the lower Colorado River from purchasing the Nevada decal. The exception applies because both states have AIS programs funded through their boater registration. Non-registered watercraft capable of retaining water will still be required to display the decal. Funds collected from the decal will be used to conduct AIS monitoring, increase law enforcement activities and promote the CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY message to all water users. Visit [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org) or contact **CWSD 775.887.9005** for additional information.

### Annual AIS Prevention Decal Fees:

	Resident/Non-resident
Non-motorized	\$5/\$10
Motorized	\$10/\$20

## Successful Weed Removal in 6 and 7 Mile Canyons

By Rich Wilkinson, Dayton Valley Conservation District

The Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD), in cooperation with Washoe Storey Conservation District, Storey County, Lyon County, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District and the Carson Water Subconservancy District, has worked over the past 4 years to address invasive weeds in the drainages or tributaries to the Carson River. The project started in 2009 in Six and Seven Mile Canyons, expanding to Gold Canyon and other drainages along Highway 341 including



American Ravine. This large collaborative effort between state, county, private landowners, and conservation districts addresses a widespread increasingly problematic invasive weed issue that has negatively impacted the Carson River. In just a few years we've seen a 90% reduction in perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, scotch and Canada thistle, and poison hemlock in the Six and Seven Mile Canyons. Treatments continue where new germination of Perennial pepperweed (seed stays viable up to 10 years), and other new plant invaders, such as dodder, Johnsongrass and

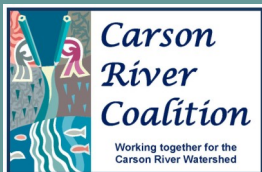
yellow starthistle, are found. Good treatment results were gained in Gold Canyon, American Flats, and American Ravine, minimizing the potential for weed-spread to the Carson River. Since 2009, DVCD and its partners have identified, mapped and treated 1500 acres within Storey and Lyon County drainages. Herbicides are applied with backpack sprayers, with large infestations treated with a high pressure nozzle, and smaller areas of scotch thistle hand-pulled. DVCD continues to work with our project partners to help keep invasive weeds out of the Carson River Watershed. Contact Rich 775.246.1999 for more information.

FOR  
INFORMATION  
ON REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED  
MEETINGS VISIT  
[www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org)

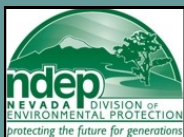
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference 2013:

**July 21-24, 2013** Peppermill Reno Resort  
Spa Casino, Reno, NV, [http://www.swcs.org/  
en/conferences/2013\\_annual\\_conference/](http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2013_annual_conference/)

### Nevada State Museum Summer Calendar of Events:

**July and August 2013**, Carson City, NV,  
[http://museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php/  
option=com\\_jcalpro&Itemid=605](http://museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=605)

### Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park Summer Events Calendar:

**July—August 2013**, Minden, NV  
<http://dangberghomeranch.org/Events.html>

### Kiwanis Carson River Cleanup Day:

**September 21, 2013**, Carson City, NV,  
[http://www.carson-city.kiwanisone.org/  
public/pub\\_page.aspx?PageID=50457](http://www.carson-city.kiwanisone.org/public/pub_page.aspx?PageID=50457)

### Markleeville Creek Day:

**September 21, 2013**, Alpine Watershed  
Group, Contact Sarah Green 530.694.2327

### Seventh Annual Green Living Festival:

**September 21, 2013**, 9AM—4PM, The  
Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch,  
Genoa, NV, <http://www.greenlivingfest.org/>

### Nevada Weed Management Association Conference 2013:

**October 29-31, 2013**, JA Nugget, Sparks,  
NV, [http://nvwma.org/outreach-education-  
conferences/conference-information/](http://nvwma.org/outreach-education-conferences/conference-information/)

### Nevada Water Resources Association 2013 Terminal River Symposium:

**November 5-7, 2013**, Reno Ramada Hotel  
and Casino, [http://www.nvwra.org/river-  
symposium](http://www.nvwra.org/river-symposium)

### 4th International Symposium on Weeds and Invasive Plants:

**May 18—23, 2014**, Montpellier, France.  
Invasive species are a problem worldwide!  
<http://www.ansespro.fr/invasiveplants2014/>

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